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The Type Locality of *Lithobius latzelii* Meinert (Chilopoda: Lithobiomorpha: Lithobiidae)

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Many new species of American centipeds were described by Frederik Meinert in his classic paper "Myriapoda Musei Cantabrigensis" (1885) which was based upon material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. Among them *Lithobius Latzelii*, the holotype of which was labeled "Virginia: Crandall." As will be explained here, the name was born with an unsuspected handicap that can only more than a century later be identified and treated.

In 1887, the species was reported by Charles H. Bollman from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, without reference to the depository of the specimens, although perhaps they were in his personal collection along with other Chapel Hill myriapod material received from G. F. Atkinson. Since Bollman provided a key to eight species of the subgenus *Neolithobius*, in which Meinert's characters diagnostic of *latzelii* were used, there seems no reason to doubt his identification. A year later (1888) Bollman recorded the species from Marksville and Luray, Virginia, on the basis of specimens in the U. S. National Museum collected by Lucien M. Underwood.

In his first paper on the lithobiomorph fauna of southeastern United States, R. V. Chamberlin (1911) combined the three names *latzelii* Meinert 1885, *clarus* McNeill 1887, and *tyrannus* Bollman 1887, under the older name *vorax* Meinert, 1872. This action was justified by his discovery that the various characters upon which the three younger names were based could be found also in specimens of *vorax*.

Shortly thereafter, Chamberlin returned to the subject in his scholarly revision of North American lithobiids (1912 *et seq.*, the part treating *Neolithobius* published in 1925). On the basis of different character systems (notably spurulation of the podomeres), Chamberlin was able to ressurect both *tyrannus* and *latzelii* from synonymy with *vorax*. In the account of *latzelii*, he specified (using the conventional symbol "!") having examined specimens from Crandall, Virginia and Brown's Summit and Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and appended Bollman's records for Luray and Marksville, Virginia. Here the matter has stood

unchanged for almost 70 years. Despite this relatively short and uncomplicated history, the status of *latzelii* is not as well secured as one might wish. The localities Luray and Marksville seem out of place in context of the entire generic range. More importantly, the ostensible type locality "Crandall" appears to be false: there is currently no such place known in Virginia, and no evidence that the name was ever in use for any place in the Commonwealth, suggesting a mislabeling which might even remove the species from the local biota.

In May, 1994, by a statistically improbable stroke of serendipity, I happened to notice a reference to an A. R. Crandall who, at some time prior to 1871, collected freshwater fishes in Virginia for the Museum of Comparative Zoology. This coincidence was too great to dismiss, so a computer print-out of Crandall's specimens was obtained from the Department of Ichthyology at the MCZ. From this information, albeit somewhat fragmentary, one learns that Crandall collected chiefly in the upper Tennessee River system of northeastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia. The localities "North Fork Holston" and "Emery College" (the former name of Emory & Henry College, in Washington County) are specified for Virginia. Can there be much doubt that the Meinert's "locality" name came from a temporary field label attached to specimens other than fishes which Crandall picked up, and that the type locality of *latzelii* is in all liklihood somewhere in Washington or Smyth counties, Virginia?

Specimens identified by comparison with the holotype have been recorded from only two localities: Chapel Hill (Orange Co.) and Brown's Summit (Guilford Co.), North Carolina. Chamberlin (1925) made it clear (with the symbol "!") that he had seen material from both, in fact he had personally obtained the centipeds from Brown's Summit in 1910. By the time he revised *Neolithobius* (sometime around 1912-1914), Chamberlin's discrimination of lithobiid species was so finely honed that a mistake in identification is most unlikely. He did not see the specimens from Marksville and Luray, Virginia, nor do I know where they are at present (if extant at all). Since these places are so far removed from Piedmont North Carolina, it is reasonable to suspect that if the specimens were in fact correctly identified, they may have been mislabeled. Substance is given this possibility in a statement from Dr. R. M. Shelley that he has seen material of *Hemiscolopendra punctiventris* (Newport) also labeled as coming from Luray, collected by Underwood (USNM collection). This austral species is known with some assurrance to occur in Virginia only south of the James River (Hoffman, 1994), and almost certainly does not occur anywhere near Luray.

This leaves the question, is fixation of a restricted type locality in southwestern Virginia biogeographically plausible in light of a known range in the North Carolina Piedmont? Fortunately, unpublished information provides affirmation. The personal centiped collection of the late Dr. Crabill, presently on deposit at the National Museum of Natural History, contains specimens (REC 2144) from Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., Va., collected by Dr. Crabill and me on 11 October 1956 (and if memory serves correctly, from dry open habitats). Blacksburg is only 110 km northeast of, and in the same physiographic region with, Emory, Washington Co., Virginia, which is provisionally suggested as the restricted type locality for *Lithobius latzelii* Meinert. Future field work in that region can confirm whether or not the species presently occurs there. There is supporting parallel evidence from milliped distributions: the small parajulid *Aniulus orientalis* Causey is known from Blacksburg as well as central North Carolina, and the distribution of the xystodesmid *Sigmoria latior* (Brolemann) encompasses much of Piedmont North Carolina, as well as southwestern Virginia (Shelley, 1981, Fig. 139)

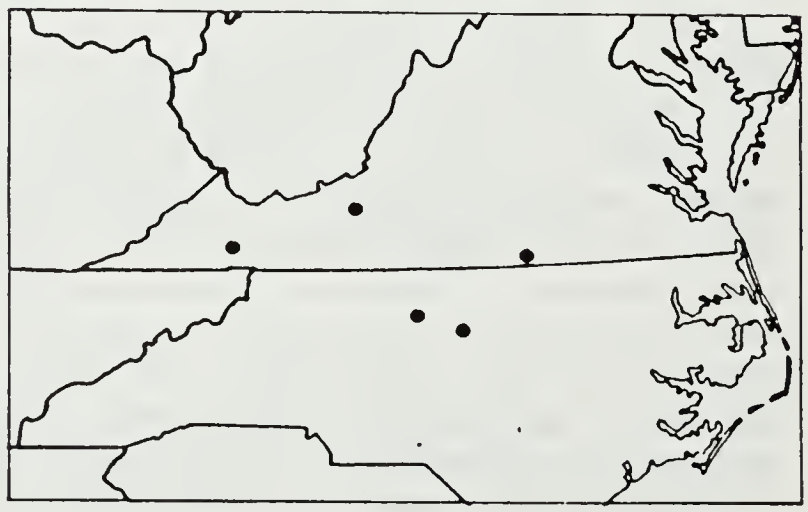

Figure 1. Virginia and North Carolina showing known localities for *Neolithobius latzelii*.

In any event, all of the localities considered reliable for the species are shown on the map (Figure 1). Aside from places mentioned in the preceding text, VMNH has three specimens of *latzelii* captured in pitfalls at Elm Hill State Game Management Area, Mecklenburg Co., Virginia, 15 March-22 April 1991. Eventually more material of the species will be collected, providing better knowledge of its range and possible confirmation for the present selection of a restricted type locality.

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Abnormal Coloration in a Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*) from Virginia

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Abnormally colored and patterned reptiles are occasionally discovered in wild populations. These individuals have received considerable attention and descriptions of them often appear in the herpetological literature (Hensley, 1959; Dyrkacz, 1981). Abnormal colors range from complete albinism to complete melanism. Albinism is a congenital decrease or absence of melanin in the skin, eyes, and mucosa resulting